



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 31 May 2012

10665/12

**PE 233
RELEX 491
COMER 128**

NOTE

from:	General Secretariat of the Council
to:	Delegations
Subject:	Summary record of the meeting of the European Parliament's Committee on International Trade (INTA), Brussels, 29-30 May 2012

The meeting was chaired by Mr MORREIRA (S&D). In spite of the exhaustive agenda (although without any high-profile debates, however), attendance among Members was very low, resulting in short debates with often only the rapporteur and the representatives of the Commission speaking.

1. State of play of ongoing trilogue negotiations
INTA/7/04325
Exchange of views

The Chair, Mr MOREIRA (S&D), informed the Committee that, as regards the proposal on Bilateral Investment Treaties and GSP, agreement had been reached with the Council and that the packages would be voted on later at the same meeting.

On the revision of the Regulation on macro-financial assistance to third countries, a vote on the amendments had been held at the May II part-session and negotiations with the Council could start.

2. Exchange of views with Mikael Gustafsson, Chair of the FEMM Committee, on gender mainstreaming in the work of parliamentary committees

Mr GUSTAFSSON explained to the Committee the twofold responsibilities of the FEMM Committee: raising the profile of women's rights and integrating the gender perspective into other policies. The various results of the latter activity were reflected in a two-yearly report and resolution. He called for greater synergy in the work of EP Committees and for the gender issue to be present in all the EP's work.

3. Amendment of Council Regulations (EC) No 2008/97, (EC) No 779/98 and (EC) No 1506/98 in the field of imports of olive oil and other agricultural products from Turkey as regards the delegated and implementing powers to be conferred on the Commission
INTA/7/08396 2011/0453(COD)COM(2011)0918 – C7-0005/2012
Consideration of draft report

The rapporteur, Mr MORREIRA (S&D and Chair), informed Members that the proposal needed to be considered in the context of the comitology alignment exercise.

The Commission representative disagreed with certain amendments, which, in her view, did not comply with the respective common understanding.

Deadline for amendments: 1 June 2012

4. Amendment of Council Regulation (EC) No 774/94 of 29 March 1994 opening and providing for the administration of certain Community tariff quotas for high-quality beef, and for pigmeat, poultrymeat, wheat and meslin, and brans, sharps and other residues
INTA/7/08381 2011/0445(COD)COM(2011)0906 – C7-0524/2011
Consideration of draft report

Again, there was only a brief presentation by the rapporteur, Mr MORREIRA, and the same reply from the Commission representative as under item 3.

Deadline for amendments: 1 June 2012

5. Amendment of Regulation (EC) No 428/2009 setting up a Community regime for the control of exports, transfer, brokering and transit of dual-use items
INTA/7/07664 2011/0310(COD)COM(2011)0704 – C7-0395/2011
Consideration of draft report

In the absence of the rapporteur, Mr FJELLNER (EPP), the debate was postponed.

6. **Macro-financial assistance to the Kyrgyz Republic**

INTA/7/08386 2011/0458(COD)COM(2011)0925 – C7-0521/2011
Consideration of draft report

The rapporteur, Mr MORREIRA noted that in this proposal, too, comitology was controversial. The Commission representative emphasised the importance of the agreement for economic recovery and the stabilisation process in the country. Pending an agreement on the revised framework Regulation, he called on the European Parliament to find a quick solution with the Council on the outstanding comitology problems, which also affected other similar proposals.

Deadline for amendments: 1 July 2012

7. **Trade Agreement between the EU of the one part and Colombia and Peru of the other part**

INTA/7/06949 2011/0249(NLE) COM(2011)0569
Consideration of draft recommendation (consent)

The rapporteur, Mr DAVID, briefly recalled the European Parliament's concerns regarding adequate monitoring of provisions on human rights, labour rights and sustainable development. He would visit the countries concerned together with the S&D shadow rapporteur, Mr LANGE, later that week.

Mr LANGE emphasised the need to clarify the package of accompanying measures and to develop, with the governments concerned, a road map for implementation.

Mr SCHOLZ (GUE) raised similar concerns, in particular as regards the effect of the FTA on poor people and the environment. He criticised the fact that negotiations had not taken sufficient account of recent economic developments and had been held with governments now no longer in power.

The Commission representative commented on some details of the report, such as the treatment of biofuel and financial services.

The rapporteur concluded that the newly elected governments shared the same concerns as the European Parliament and hoped for a constructive way forward. He would propose a positive vote on the agreement but, pending formal submission of the text by the Council, the vote on consent needed to be postponed. A vote was held on the accompanying resolution later the same day, however (see item 20).

8. State of Play on International Trade Negotiations

INTA/7/01417

Exchange of views with Jean-Luc Demarty, Director General, DG Trade, Commission

"in camera"

9. EU accession to the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC)

INTA/7/08168 2011/0420(NLE) COM(2011)0861

First exchange of views with stakeholders

A representative from the ICAC informed the Committee of the role and working methods of the organisation and provided facts and figures illustrating the importance of the sector worldwide.

For the second year running, India had imposed a ban on cotton exports, which created competitive distortions.

Mr DARTMOUTH (ECR) questioned the legitimacy of the EU's accession to ICAC, while Mr CUTAS (S&D) welcomed the initiative to give the EU more weight and increase transparency. However, he called on the Council to have a debate on child labour in the sector (*related to his interim report on Uzbekistan*).

The Commission representative informed the Committee that membership was still under discussion in the Council and that the contribution to the ICAC still needed to be defined. He considered that membership would give more weight to the EU, which was already allocating significant aid to cotton-producing countries.

Consideration of the draft report: 20 June 2012

10. Motion for a resolution on the consequences of the crisis in the European tanning industry

Consideration of draft opinion in letter form

In the absence of the rapporteur, Ms MUSCARDINI (EPP), Mr CASPARI emphasised the importance of the sector in terms of turnover and jobs. Several problems, such as the lack of raw materials, price fluctuation, VAT rules and water treatment, were affecting the tanning industry and called for institutional action.

A vote was held on the opinion later at the same meeting (see item 20)

11. Joint debate:

Establishing a Partnership Instrument for cooperation with third countries.

INTA/7/08336 2011/0411(COD)COM(2011)0843 – C7-0495/2011

Consideration of draft opinion

Establishing common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for external action

INTA/7/08645 2011/0415(COD)COM(2011)0842 – C7-0494/2011

Consideration of draft opinion

The rapporteur, Ms ANDRIKIENĖ (EPP), recalled briefly the aim of the proposals (see also Doc. 83645/12, point 9) and said that, whereas the AFET Committee was the lead committee, the INTA Committee should also provide broad input. She would have further contacts with the AFET Committee rapporteurs on her amendments to both proposals, which aimed to obtain best value for money.

Ms KELLER (Greens) asked for greater emphasis to be given to the "partnership" aspects, which should be of mutual interest rather than focusing only on EU interests.

The Commission representative said that certain aspects of the proposals, such as better market access, were indeed of importance for the INTA Committee but that the Commission needed more flexibility to address changing situations. The modest financial allocation for the partnership instrument for cooperation with third countries meant that synergies and complementarity were called for.

Deadline for amendments: 1 June 2012

Vote in INTA: 20 June 2012

12. Joint debate:

Amendment of Directive 2004/109/EC on the harmonisation of transparency requirements in relation to information about issuers whose securities are admitted to trading on a regulated market and Commission Directive 2007/14/EC

INTA/7/08161 2011/0307(COD)COM(2011)0683 – C7-0380/2011

Consideration of draft opinion

Annual financial statements, consolidated financial statements and related reports of certain types of undertakings

INTA/7/08984 2011/0308(COD)COM(2011)0684 – C7-0393/2011

Consideration of draft opinion

The rapporteur, Mr SCHOLZ (GUE), said that he aimed to follow the line taken by other reporting committees and the lead committee in proposing to extend the scope of the proposals to sectors other than extraction and forestry industries in order to maximise transparency. Real interests should be identified and the scope of implementation could later be broadened to include SMEs.

Ms SAIFI (EPP) was not convinced about an immediate extension and proposed that the scope of the proposals remain unchanged. She called for a more precise definition of "projects" and a review clause.

The Commission representative emphasised that the proposals were designed to focus on particular sectors and were not appropriate to be applied to others. She explained that exemptions were limited to situations in which employers could be liable to criminal sanctions, that thresholds were needed and that overall the proposals sought to increase transparency without affecting competitiveness.

Deadline for amendments: 1 June 2012

Vote in INTA: 20 June 2012

13. **Establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation**

INTA/7/08335 2011/0406(COD)COM(2011)0840 – C7-0493/2011

First exchange of views

The rapporteur, Mr SCHOLZ, presented mainly the changes made which would result from this proposal compared with the existing instrument. The main concerns he raised were related to the areas of action now in the annexes subject to delegated acts, which he considered to be against the EP's interests, the aid-for-trade aspect, which he wanted to see

feature more prominently, and the exclusion of many Latin American and Asian countries.

Ms SAIFI considered the proposal to be in line with neighbourhood policy instruments and welcomed more flexibility, conditionality (respect for human rights, rule of law etc.), specificity and the involvement of civil society and local communities.

Ms BARREA (S&D) spoke along the same lines but warned against overlapping initiatives, and called for an adequate transitional phasing-out period taking into account other programmes such as GSP. The INTA Committee should focus its opinion on sustainability and job creation.

Ms KELLER called for a joining of forces to prevent the EP losing powers and advocated more coherent policies.

The Commission and EEAS representatives emphasised that the objective of the instrument had not changed, i.e. the eradication of poverty, but that the proposal aimed to differentiate better between beneficiary countries and actions in order to have more effect. The exclusion of certain countries such as India was based on the fact that they had the potential to combat poverty themselves, and the focus should be on countries that did not have this capacity. Joint programming with Member States would increase added value, and Commission flexibility was needed to address changing situations. It was, however, up to the EP and the Council to define the limits of this flexibility.

14. Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)

INTA/7/08317 2011/0404(COD)COM(2011)0838 – C7-0491/2011

Consideration of draft opinion

In the absence of the rapporteur, Mr WINKLER (EPP), Ms SAIFI recalled the context of the proposal and emphasised that economic growth should go hand in hand with democratic reform. The trade-cooperation elements should be developed further and beneficiary countries should commit to joining the WTO.

The Commission representative said that the proposal was based on the previous instrument but would now focus more on tailor-made action to meet concrete needs of beneficiary countries. Moreover the distinction between candidate countries and others had been removed.

Deadline for amendments: 1 June 2012

15. Establishing an Instrument for Stability

INTA/7/08348 2011/0413(COD)COM(2011)0845 – C7-0497/2011

Consideration of draft opinion

In the absence of Mr ABAD (EPP), Ms SAIFI introduced the scope of the proposal, which provided *inter alia* for more flexibility. She suggested that the INTA Committee propose including in the scope the Kimberley process, access to vital resources, commercial infrastructure and support for border controls.

The Commission representative recalled the need to link possible amendments to the objectives of the proposal: crisis management in the short and longer term. He suggested that certain amendments be reviewed, stating that work on the Kimberley process was already ongoing and that the access to vital resources could be better addressed by ECHO or macro-financial assistance.

Deadline for amendments: 1 June 2012

16. Establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument

INTA/7/08327 2011/0405(COD)COM(2011)0839 – C7-0492/2011

Consideration of draft opinion

The rapporteur, Ms CORREA ZAMORA, said that the proposal was timely as regards adapting the instrument to the challenges of the Arab Spring. She favoured the principle "more for more" in particular for the trade aspects where more commitments could be taken in relation to progress on democratic and structural reform. Funding could be differentiated on the basis of real needs, flexibility should be supported, legal certainty for SMEs should be created, and corruption and tax fraud should be combated. As regards the suspension of aid, the EU should strive for a consistent approach.

Ms BADIA (S&D) advocated a more efficient use of EU resources, which should have a leverage effect. The creation of regional unions should be encouraged to deal with violence and migration, and mutual commitment founded on a market-based economy should evolve towards commitments based on a social market economy.

The EEAS representative commented on certain proposed amendments saying that, in the event of a breach of WTO commitments, EU aid should not be suspended but that the normal WTO or FTA dispute-settlement rules should be followed.

Deadline for amendments: 1 June 2012

17. Monitoring Group Activities

INTA/7/08162

Exchange of views

In the absence of most Members responsible for the monitoring groups, the Chair reported briefly on the activities of certain groups and Ms ANDRIKIENĖ informed Members on the constituent meeting of the monitoring group for the South Caucasus, which was scheduling meetings with the relevant ambassadors and Commission representatives.

18. EU/New Zealand agreement amending the Agreement on Mutual Recognition in Relation to Conformity Assessment between the European Community and New Zealand

INTA/7/03040 2010/0139(NLE) 12126/2010 – C7-0058/2012

Consideration of draft report

Amendment of the Agreement on mutual recognition in relation to conformity assessment, certificates and markings between the European Community and Australia

INTA/7/03045 2010/0146(NLE) 12124/2010 – C7-0057/2012

Consideration of draft report

The Chair, rapporteur for both proposals, proposed giving consent to these technical proposals.

The Commission representative explained that the aim was to simplify mutual recognition of conformity, to clean up somewhat the previous agreement, to review some annexes in view of changed circumstances and to make subsequent amendments easier.

Deadline for amendments: 1 June 2012

19. Votes

The following acts were adopted with amendments:

Trade Agreement between the EU of the one part and Colombia and Peru of the other part

INTA/7/09402

Adoption of motion for a resolution (vote on consent will follow later once the agreement has been formally submitted by the Council)

Trade aspects of the Eastern partnership

INTA/7/08037 2011/2306(INI)

Adoption of draft report

2013 Budget - Mandate for Trilogue

INTA/7/08812 2012/2016(BUD)

Adoption of draft opinion

European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (2014 - 2020)

INTA/7/07506 2011/0269(COD)COM(2011)0608 – C7-0319/2011

Adoption of draft opinion

The following acts were adopted without amendment:

EU-Russia agreement on trade in parts and components of motor vehicles

INTA/7/07922 2011/0324(NLE) 16806/2011 – C7-0517/2011

Adoption of draft recommendation (consent)

EU-Russia Agreement regarding the preservation of commitments on trade in services contained in the current EU-Russia Partnership and Co-operation Agreement

INTA/7/08000 2011/0328(NLE) 16815/2011 – C7-0522/2011

Adoption of draft recommendation (consent)

EU-Russia Agreement regarding the introduction or increase by the Russian Federation of export duties on raw materials

INTA/7/07966 2011/0332(NLE) 16827/2011 – C7-0520/2011

Adoption of draft recommendation (consent)

EU-Russia Agreement on the administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood and EU-Russia Protocol on technical modalities pursuant to that Agreement

INTA/7/07968 2011/0322(NLE) 16775/2011 – C7-0515/2011

Adoption of draft recommendation (consent)

Motion for a resolution on the consequences of the crisis in the European tanning industry

INTA/7/07775

Adoption of draft opinion in letter form

Scheme of generalised tariff preferences

Adoption of compromise package after negotiations with Council

Transitional arrangements for bilateral investment agreements between Member States and third countries

Adoption of compromise package after negotiations with Council

The vote on a question for oral answer and a motion for a resolution on **EU-Japan trade negotiations** was cancelled after a procedural debate initiated by Mr STURDY (ECR), who complained that no translations were available and that there was no time for amendments.

Mr CASPARY stated that his group would table the question and the motion at the next part-session and that the other political groups (which did not contest the vote) could join. However, the draft agenda for the June part-session already provided for a Commission statement on EU trade negotiations with Japan.

21. Date, time and place of next meeting:

- 20 June 2012, 9.00-12.30 and 15.00-18.30 (Brussels)
 - 21 June 2012, 9.00-12.30 (Brussels)
-